



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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Phi Epsilon Pi award, 1948-1949.



# Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity

## GRAND COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE OFFICES

LEWIS TOWER  
PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

November 22, 1948

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

It is my great pleasure to inform you hereby that the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity Annual National Service Award has been bestowed upon you for the year 1948.

Each year our Fraternity presents this Award to the Jew or Jewess, who, in our opinion, has made an outstanding and exemplary contribution to the essential Jewish life of America. Indicative indeed of the true character and distinction of our Award is the roll of recipients of previous years: Miss Henrietta Szold, Rev. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Cyrus Adler, Rev. Dr. Jonah B. Wise, Justice Felix Frankfurter, Dr. Albert Einstein, Mr. Lucius Littauer, Hon. Herbert H. Lehman, Henry Monsky, Esq., Mr. Louis Ginzberg, Hon. Samuel I. Rosenman, Hon. Bernard M. Baruch, Rev. Dr. Julian Morgenstern and Dr. Abram Leon Sachar.

I would have preferred, of course, to present this matter to you in person, and to enjoy the opportunity for discussion and exchange of views, but I trust you will realize that the elements of time and distance make it impracticable to do so. With your kind indulgence, therefore, I shall attempt to give you as adequate an explanation as is possible through the necessary medium of this communication.

Phi Epsilon Pi is an undergraduate Greek letter college fraternity, organized in 1904 and having a membership of approximately 8000 men in both undergraduate and alumni ranks. Undergraduate Chapters are established at thirty-three of the leading universities and colleges throughout the country. Alumni Associations are organized in thirty-two cities and communities from coast to coast. It will be of interest to you, I am sure, to know that we had an Undergraduate Chapter some years ago at the University of Cincinnati, from whose ranks a number of our members eventually matriculated at Hebrew Union College and are today occupying important pulpits in various parts of the country.

While our function may be termed as "social", (as distinguished from so-called "professional" fraternities) we pride ourselves on our





# Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity

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LEWIS TOWER  
PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

November 22, 1948

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
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national "wider scope" program, which has pointed its efforts towards the greater development of a sense of regard and responsibility among our members, both undergraduate and graduate, for the achievement of the loftiest principles of learning and culture of the university institution itself, and for a broader and more universal understanding of Jewish consciousness translated into thought and action as members of the Jewish community.

In accepting our Award may we say, with complete sincerity, that you will be conferring a great honor upon us, and, in the light of our abovementioned program, your praiseworthy career will be an inspiration to our membership as a whole and to our undergraduate body in particular.

The Committee, which selected you for the Award this year, is composed of Mr. Jesse Acker of New York, Rev. Dr. Stanley R. Brav of Cincinnati, Mr. Philip S. Eisendrath of Los Angeles, Mr. Theodore T. Shafton of Chicago and the writer, acting as Chairman.

The Award for 1948, as per custom, will be announced formally on the occasion of the Annual Banquet of the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity Grand Convention which will be held on the evening of December 30, 1948 at Hotel Carter in Cleveland, Ohio. If it is at all possible, we would be indeed greatly honored by your personal attendance at the Banquet, so that we might be able to present you with the scroll of the Award at the very same time that first public announcement is made. However, if it is too inconvenient for you to be present at the Banquet, we will be very happy to make formal presentation of the Award to you at a later date, the time and place, as well as the nature of the ceremony to be entirely in keeping with your own tastes and desires. On the other hand, if you can and will attend the Banquet, and so advise, we will communicate with you further and arrange for all the details incident thereto.

Because our Award has always been subject, of course, to the affirmative acceptance of the recipient, we will appreciate your advice, and in view of the fact that only about a month remains before public announcement will be made, we hope we may hear from you with the least





# Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity

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### EXECUTIVE OFFICES

LEWIS TOWER  
PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

November 22, 1948

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

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possible delay. You will kindly address your reply to the writer at his personal address set forth below.

With my most cordial greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

Louis M. Fushan,  
Chairman

Committee on the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity  
1948 Annual National Service Award  
947-949 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

LMF:DB

Registered return Receipt



November 26, 1948

Mr. Louis M. Fushan  
947-949 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

My dear Mr. Fushan:

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter of November 22nd. I deeply appreciate the honor which the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity has bestowed upon me in making me the recipient of its Annual National Service Award for the year 1948. I shall be pleased to accept the award. It is heartening to have one's humble services so signally recognized.

You state in your letter that you plan to hold your Convention in Cleveland on December 30th. I shall be happy to attend the banquet that evening. I trust that no emergency will arise which will compel me to be away from Cleveland on that day.

With all good wishes and hoping to see you in Cleveland, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er





# Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity

## GRAND COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE OFFICES

LEWIS TOWER  
PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

November 30, 1948

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I hasten to acknowledge your very gracious letter of November 26th, in which you have indicated your acceptance of the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity Annual National Service Award for the year 1948. Your acceptance of our Award has made me very happy, as I know it will our entire membership.

I am also genuinely gratified that, barring any unforeseen emergency, you will find it convenient to attend our Grand Convention Banquet at the Hotel Carter in Cleveland on the evening of Thursday, December 30th next, on which occasion first formal announcement and presentation of the Award will be made. According to present plans the announcement and presentation will be made by Mr. I.F. Freiburger of Cleveland, who is a member of our Fraternity, and with whom I am sure you are well acquainted.

The National President of our Fraternity is Mr. Norman Korff of Chicago. The Convention Chairman is Mr. W. S. Mielziner of Cleveland. Mr. Freiburger, Mr. Korff, Mr. Mielziner or I will be in communication with you between now and the date of the Banquet, so that you will be fully informed regarding any other necessary details.

To assure accuracy I took the liberty to write to Mr. Harold Manson at the New York Office of the American Zionist Emergency Council for biographical data on your career. I am also writing simultaneously to your Executive Secretary, Mr. Harry A. Levy, requesting similar information. I am also asking Mr. Levy for several pictures to be used for publication, and I trust he will have your permission to furnish them.

If you desire any further information, please do not hesitate to communicate with me.

May I take this opportunity of the season to wish you, on behalf of





# Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity

## GRAND COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE OFFICES

LEWIS TOWER  
PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

November 30, 1948

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
Page 2

Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity, continued good health and spirit throughout the New Year, and for many, many years to come.

Sincerely yours,

Louis M. Fushan,  
Chairman

Committee on the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity  
1948 Annual National Service Award  
947-949 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

LMF:DB



**LOUIS M. FUSHAN**

ATTORNEY AT LAW

947-949 PENN AVENUE

PITTSBURGH 22, PA.

ATLANTIC 4611

November 30, 1948

Mr. Harry A. Levy,  
Executive Secretary  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Mr. Levy:

Will you please be good enough to furnish me with a very brief and condensed biography of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, starting with the date and place of birth, his schooling, his pulpit assignments and ending right down to date, covering his recent and present activities in connection with the Palestine movement and the State of Israel. If you have such biographical material on Dr. Silver already prepared, so much the better. However, if it is to be specially prepared in order to fulfill my request, may I suggest for your convenience, that I do not require any elaborate details; in fact, a page or two of pure statistical biographical data will suffice, so long as it is fairly complete and primarily accurate.

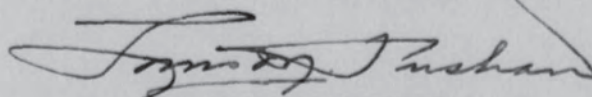
I am also in need of several pictures of Dr. Silver suitable for publication use.

The purpose which this information is to serve will not be publically announced until December 30th next. However, Dr. Silver is aware of my purpose, and if you will consult with him, I am sure he will grant you his permission to comply with this request.

The biographical information and the pictures will be needed very shortly, and so I hope that I may hear from you in the matter as soon as possible.

I regret to be obliged to put you to this trouble, but your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Louis M. Fushan  
Past National President  
Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity

LMF:DB



December 2, 1948

Mr. Louis M. Fushan  
947-949 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh22, Penna.

My dear Mr. Fushan:

Your letter of November 30th addressed to Mr. Harry Levy has been turned over to me for reply.

Dr. Silver was born in Lithuania in 1893. He received his A.B. from the University of Cincinnati in 1915 when he was simultaneously graduated from Hebrew Union College. In 1925 he received his D.D. from the Hebrew Union College, and in 1938, his Litt. D. from Western Reserve University.

Dr. Silver was rabbi of a congregation in Wheeling, West Virginia, from 1915 to 1917. In 1917, at the age of 24, Dr. Silver became the rabbi of The Temple in Cleveland, the largest liberal synagogue in America.

Dr. Silver served as university preacher at Harvard, Cornell, University of Chicago, Syracuse, and Purdue. In 1919 he was decorated by the French government. He is the author of "Messianic Speculations in Israel", "Religion in a Changing World", and "Democratic Impulse in Jewish History".

Dr. Silver is married and has two sons - Raphael David, a junior at Harvard University, and Daniel Jeremy, a student at the Hebrew Union College.

He is at present Chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency and of the American Zionist Emergency Council.

I hope that this information will serve your purpose. I am enclosing two glossy prints of Dr. Silver which I shall appreciate your returning to me. The local newspapers all have cuts of Dr. Silver.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. Silver

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Enc. 2



LOUIS M. FUSHAN

ATTORNEY AT LAW

947-949 PENN AVENUE

PITTSBURGH 22, PA.

ATLANTIC 4611

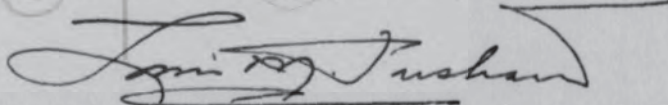
December 4, 1948

Miss Elizabeth Rice  
Secretary to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Miss Rice:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the biographical data which you sent me on Dr. Silver, in response to my recent request. I appreciate your kindness and excellent cooperation very much. I will instruct our Executive Office to return the glossy prints of Dr. Silver directly to you as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,



Louis M. Fushan  
Past National President  
Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity

LMF:DB



# Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity

## GRAND COUNCIL

NORMAN KORFF, GRAND SUPERIOR  
213 N. MORGAN STREET, CHICAGO 7, ILL.

MILTON K. SUSMAN, GRAND VICE-SUPERIOR  
1914 CLARK BUILDING, PITTSBURGH 22, PA.

STANLEY R. SUNDHEIM, GRAND TREASURER  
6808 N. 11TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA 26, PA.

LOUIS D. TRURIG, GRAND RECORDER  
174 EUCLID AVENUE, WATERBURY, CONN.



December 6, 1948

JOSEPH J. FINE, GRAND COUNCILOR  
556 HURT BUILDING, ATLANTA 3, GA.

ROBERT G. SANDLER, GRAND COUNCILOR  
1206 SAVINGS & LOAN BLDG., DES MOINES 9, IA.

ROBERT L. ADLER, GRAND COUNCILOR  
SUITE 221, 549 W. WASHINGTON ST., CHICAGO 6, ILL.

PAUL B. SPIWAK, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
520 LEWIS TOWER BLDG., PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have a letter from Mr. Louis M. Fushan, Chairman of the Phi Epsilon Pi 1948 National Service Award Committee, that you have consented to accept our award for 1948.

I am delighted that you accepted this award and am looking forward to meeting you and being with you in Cleveland on December 30.

Cordially yours,

NK:mt

Norman Korff,  
Grand Superior



LOUIS M. FUSHAN

ATTORNEY AT LAW

947-949 PENN AVENUE

PITTSBURGH 22, PA.

ATLANTIC 4611

January 5, 1949

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

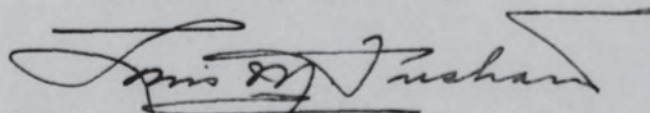
Dear Dr. Silver:

This is my very first opportunity to comply with your request in accordance with my promise.

I am pleased to enclose a copy of my report, as Chairman, which I delivered at the Grand Convention Banquet of Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity, held December 30, 1948 at Hotel Carter in Cleveland in connection with the announcement of the selection of yourself as the recipient of our Annual National Service Award for the year 1948. I also enclose a copy of the continuity which I prepared for the radio broadcast, and which I believe was followed quite substantially by both the announcer and Mr. I. F. Freiburger.

I am very happy and deeply grateful to you for the effort you made to attend the Banquet. Your presence was indeed an inspiration to all those in attendance. It was a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to meet you, and I trust that our paths may cross frequently in the future on equally pleasant occasions. May I extend my best wishes to you and to your family for a happy and significant new year.

Sincerely yours,



Louis M. Fushan,  
Chairman

Committee on the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity  
1948 Annual National Service Award

LMF:DB

Enc.



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REPORT OF LOUIS M. PUSHAN, CHAIRMAN  
OF THE COMMITTEE OF JUDGES ON THE  
PHI EPSILON PI FRATERNITY 1948 ANNUAL NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

To: The 1948 Grand Convention  
Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity  
Hotel Carter  
Cleveland, Ohio  
December 30, 1948

Fratres Toastmaster, Honored Guests and Fratres:

It is my very pleasant duty

~~xxxxxx~~ to report to the Grand Convention of Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity, assembled here at Hotel Carter in the City of Cleveland, Ohio, the decision of the Committee of Judges on the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity Annual National Service Award for the year 1948. The Committee, as you may know, was composed of the following Fratres: Mr. Jesse Aker of New York, Rev. Dr. Stanley R. Brav of Cincinnati, Mr. Philip S. Eisendrath of Los Angeles and Mr. Theodore T. Shafton of Chicago. Over this Committee it was my privilege to preside as Chairman.

Since the inception of the <sup>plan</sup>~~xxxx~~ in 1935, our National Service Awards <sup>achievement of</sup>~~xxxxxx~~ have each year discerned and recognized the true ~~xxxxxx~~ greatness in individuals of the American - Jewish community, who by their deeds have made vital, outstanding and exemplary contributions to the welfare and progress of the Jewish Community itself. Further, we have maintained that such interest in the well-being of the Jewish Community goes hand in hand with loyalty to country and with the responsibility of good American citizenship in its truest sense.

The quality of  
/Greatness may be found on both sides of religious, social, scientific or political thought, and Phi Epsilon Pi has only concerned itself with the intrinsic and essential values of individual stature, looking



beyond disputed and mooted causes for which the individual may champion one side or the other. The distinguished recipients of our Award have, for these past thirteen years, provided clear evidence of the flexibility of our humble judgment of individual greatness as it exists in our American - Jewish community. Let me put it in another way. Greatness in human stature may at times conform to pattern, but happily and more frequently it will blaze new and unfamiliar trails. Great men are therefore, in many instances, controversial figures, pioneering in new thoughts and objectives and pushing forward to new and larger horizons. Phi Epsilon Pi, I am happy to state, has expressed the true significance of its Annual National Service Award with an attitude of strict impartiality, and by adjudging the recipients solely by the yardstick of their influence for good, and their inspiring leadership on the American - Jewish scene.

For the year 1948, Phi Epsilon Pi has selected a man who has captured the imagination of not only the American - Jewish Community, but of Jews and non-Jews throughout the world. An outstanding Rabbi, a profound Jewish scholar and author, a brilliant orator whose public utterances have swayed and influenced for good multitudes throughout our land and the world-at-large, a dynamic leader and force for several decades in the cause of Zionism and the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine ---- the recipient of the 1948 Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity Annual National Service Award is Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver!

Let me briefly review his remarkable career:



M E M O R A N D U M

January 6, 1949

To: Rabbi Julius J. Nodel

From: Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

In writing up the Phi Epsilon Pi Award, you may wish to include a few sentences from the citation given by Mr. I. Freiburger, which I am attaching hereto.

AHS:er  
Enc.





January 6, 1949

Mr. Louis M. Fushan, Chairman  
Committee on Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity  
1948 Annual National Service Award  
947-949 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

My dear Mr. Fushan:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of January 5th and for the enclosures. I need not tell you that I was deeply moved by the meeting at which the Award was made, by what you and Mr. Freiburger said, and by the general spirit which prevailed at the meeting. I shall long remember it.

The check which you gave me and which accompanied the award, I have sent this day to the Jewish National Fund with the request that the name of the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity be inscribed in the Golden Book in recognition of its outstanding service to the Jewish men in the colleges and universities of our country.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er



January 6, 1949

Mr. Mendel Fisher  
Jewish National Fund  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York, New York

My dear Mendel:

I am enclosing herewith a check for \$100, and I should like you to inscribe the name of the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity in the Golden Book in recognition of its services to the Jewish men in the colleges and universities of our country. You may have read in the press that it is this fraternity which awarded me their Annual National Service Award in connection with which there was this monetary honorarium.

Please write to Mr. Louis M. Fushan, Chairman of the Committee on the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity, 1948 Annual National Service Award, whose address is 947-949 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er  
Enc.





# Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity

## GRAND COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE OFFICES

LEWIS TOWER  
PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

January 8, 1949

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th St. at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Most belatedly I am returning your original manuscript of your radio address before the Banquet of Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity on the occasion of the presentation of the National Service Award of the Fraternity to you.

I am also enclosing another manuscript, a copy of the introductory remarks of Mr. Freiburger as well as copies of the pictures that were taken that evening; a copy of the press release sent out to all Jewish papers and wire services; and an extract from the minutes of our Convention which will be self explanatory.

It was a great pleasure for the Fraternity to have you present at the Banquet to receive our Award. Your inspiring address on that occasion was ample evidence that our National Service Award Committee chose most wisely in selecting you for our Fraternity's highest honor to an outstanding American Jew.

It was my great pleasure also to meet and speak with you and I am at your service at any time for whatever assistance I may be able to give you.

With sincerest regards for your continuing lofty standards of endeavor during 1949, I am

Respectfully yours,

PAUL B. SPIWAK  
Executive Secretary



PHI EPSILON PI FRATERNITY

520 Lewis Tower Building

Philadelphia, Penna.

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NOT TO BE RELEASED BEFORE 10:00 P. M. (EST), DECEMBER 30TH, 1948

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 30. Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, former president of the Zionist Organization of America, was tonight named as the recipient of the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity's National Service Award for 1948.

The award is presented each year to the Jew who has made "the finest contribution to the essential Jewish life of America."

Presentation of the award, which is symbolized by a suitably inscribed plaque, was made at the annual convention banquet of the Fraternity at the Carter Hotel here tonight. In accordance with the Fraternity's tradition, the name of the recipient of the award had been kept secret until the actual presentation.

The plaque was presented to Dr. Silver by I. F. Freiburger, chairman of the board of directors of the Cleveland Trust Company and a member of Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity.

Dr. Silver's address of acceptance was broadcast over a coast-to-coast radio hookup of the Mutual Broadcasting System.

Other speakers at the convention banquet were Thomas A. Burke, Mayor of Cleveland, and Bill Veeck, manager and part-owner of the world's champions Cleveland Indians. The 44th annual convention of the Fraternity opened at the Carter Hotel yesterday. Representatives of 33 active collegiate chapters and 32 alumni associations were in attendance.

The National Service Award was presented to Dr. Silver for his constant and unselfish activities in behalf of his fellow Jews throughout the world. A graduate of the Hebrew Union College in 1915, the Lithuanian-born rabbi simultaneously received his A. B. degree from the University of Cincinnati.



The fifth in a line of rabbis in his family, Dr. Silver's first pulpit assignment, immediately following his ordination, was to a congregation in Wheeling, West Virginia.

He served abroad in World War I at the request of the French and American governments, and in 1919 he was decorated with the order of "Officer de l'Instruction Publique" by the French government.

In 1917, Dr. Silver became the rabbi of The Temple in Cleveland, the largest liberal synagogue in America. He has occupied its pulpit ever since, and under his rabbinate, The Temple has become one of the foremost Jewish congregations in the world.

In 1925, he received his Doctorate of Divinity (D.D.) from the Hebrew Union College and in 1938 the degree of Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.) was conferred on him by Western Reserve University.

In 1939 he held the post of Dudleian Lecturer at Harvard University, and at various times Dr. Silver has served as university preacher at Harvard, Cornell, Chicago, Syracuse and Purdue Universities.

The publication of his book, "Messianic Speculations in Israel," in 1927 earned for Dr. Silver the highest recognition in the field of theological scholarship. His later works, including "Religion in a Changing World" and "Democratic Impulse in Jewish History" have won for him an important place in theological literature.

Dr. Silver is best known in Jewish life, however, as a leader in the Zionist movement. He did not adopt Zionism; he has grown up in it. He has devoted his entire life to the exercise of that leadership. For at least two decades, he has been the central figure in American-Jewish effort for the reconstruction of Palestine. One of the most outstanding orators in America, he has been probably the most articulate of American exponents of the Jewish Common-



wealth cause. He helped build an appreciation of Zionism and Palestinian Hebrew culture among his colleagues in the reform rabbinate and he helped also to integrate a respect for Zionism into American life.

A past president of the Zionist Organization of America and still one of its greatest spiritual forces, Dr. Silver has also served as the national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal and has held the post of national co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees, Overseas Needs and Palestine. He also served as a member of the Near East Relief Committee.

Dr. Silver is presently the chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council.

Despite his many duties and obligations to the Zionist movement and its related projects, Dr. Silver has always managed to devote much time and effort to the betterment of the social conditions of his own community. These activities are many and varied, but illustrative of this side of his remarkable personality and vigor it is appropriate to mention that he is a member of the Executive Board of the Larger Regional Government of Cleveland and a member of the Consumer's League of Ohio.

Dr. Silver is married and has two sons, Raphael D., a junior at Harvard University, and Daniel J., a student at Hebrew Union College.

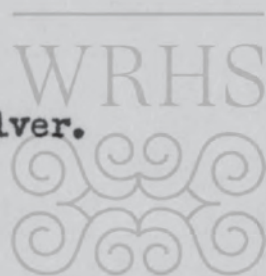
The National Service Award Committee, which selected Dr. Silver as the 1948 Award recipient, was headed by Louis M. Fushan of Pittsburgh, and included Jesse Acker of New York; Rev. Dr. Stanley R. Brav of Cincinnati; Philip S. Eisendrath of Los Angeles, and Theodore T. Shafton of Chicago.

Previous recipients of the Award, in chronological order from 1935 to 1948, include: the late Miss Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah; Rev. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress; the late Dr. Cyrus Adler, former president of the American Jewish Committee; Rev. Dr. Jonah B. Wise,



co-chairman of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; Associate Justice Felix Frankfurter, of the United States Supreme Court; Dr. Albert Einstein, world renown scientist; the late Lucius N. Littauer, philanthropist; Hon. Herbert H. Lehman, former Governor of New York State; the late Henry Monsky, former national president of B'nai B'rith; Professor Louis Ginzberg, noted Hebraic scholar; Hon. Samuel I. Rosenman, presidential advisor to the late President Roosevelt and President Truman; Bernard M. Baruch, noted economist and presidential advisor; Rev. Dr. Julian Morgenstern, former president of Hebrew Union College, and Dr. Abram Leon Sachar, president of Brandeis University. Drs. Morgenstern and Sachar were joint recipients of the 1947 Award.

encl: news mat of Dr. Silver.



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1948 PHI EPSILON PI FRATERNITY ANNUAL NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

SUGGESTED RADIO SCRIPT

(INTRODUCTION BY ANNOUNCER)

This broadcast is coming to you over \_\_\_\_\_  
from the Hotel Carter in the city of Cleveland where delegates and  
guests attending the forty-fourth Annual Grand Convention of the Phi  
Epsilon Pi Fraternity are gathered at a Banquet in honor of Dr. Abba  
Hillel Silver. Dr. Silver is to be presented this evening with the  
Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity Annual National Service Award for the year  
1948. Announcement of the Award is to be made by Mr. I. F. Freiburger,  
one of the leading citizens of the City of Cleveland, Chairman of the  
Board of the Cleveland Trust Company, and prominent member of the  
Fraternity ----- Mr. Freiburger.

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(INTRODUCTION OF DR. SILVER BY MR. FREIBERGER)

Gentlemen of Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity, assembled in Grand Convention  
here in the City of Cleveland, Ohio -- and Ladies and Gentlemen of our  
radio audience:

To me has been assigned the welcome task and privilege to announce, on  
behalf of Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity, -- founded in 1904, with under-  
graduate chapters established at thirty-three of America's leading  
universities and a host of Alumni Associations organized in cities and  
communities from coast to coast, -- the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity  
Annual National Service Award for 1948.

The Committee on the Award has, for the year 1948, selected for this  
honor and distinction none other than the eminent American rabbi and  
Jewish scholar, and the foremost exponent of the Jewish Commonwealth  
cause in America, and perhaps throughout the world: Rev. Dr. Abba  
Hillel Silver!

(APPLAUSE)

Beginning with 1935, Phi Epsilon Pi has each year bestowed this  
recognition upon the Jew or Jewess, who in its considered opinion and  
judgement, has made an outstanding and exemplary contribution to the  
essential Jewish life of America. In making these annual awards, it  
is interesting to observe that no stereotyped pattern has been followed.  
In fact all walks of life and fields of human endeavor have been  
explored and rewarded. For example, let me name the recipients of  
the Award in previous years: Miss Henrietta Szold, Rev. Dr. Stephen S.  
Wise, Dr. Cyrus Adler, Rev. Dr. Jonah B. Wise, Justice Felix  
Frankfurter, Dr. Albert Einstein, Mr. Lucius Littauer, Hon. Herbert H.  
Lehman, Henry Monsky, Esq., Mr. Louis Ginzberg, Hon. Samuel I. Rosenman,  
Hon. Bernard M. Baruch, Rev. Dr. Julian Morgenstern and Dr. Abram Leon  
Sachar.

To this distinguished company of former recipients of the Award the  
addition of Dr. Silver's illustrious career and record of achievement  
is indeed fitting, harmonious, and complimentary. Dr. Silver's



outstanding accomplishments are far too well known to require detailed enumeration here. Suffice it to say that his unbounded and fully demonstrated capacity for leadership in the Jewish pulpit, in Jewish culture and theological scholarship, in American-Jewish community affairs, in the American-Jewish effort for the reconstruction of Palestine, in the good fight for international recognition of the State of Israel, in the social progress of our public school system and in the welfare of community life in general for Americans of all faiths and national origins, -- yes, his inspiring leadership in so many ennobling and humanitarian causes has stamped Dr. Silver as one of the truly great figures of our times.

At fifty-six, Dr. Silver still gives the impression of youth. His fighting spirit is young. His impact upon American Jewish life and the American community in general is the impact of youth. Moreover, underlying all, Dr. Silver is always a man of God! Despite his tremendous devotion to practical and material tasks, he has never permitted the "life of the hour" to destroy, for him and for the many who bask in the sun of his warm influence, "the life of eternity". In his own phrasing, he never suffers "the timely" to erase "the timeless".

We are happy with and honored by his presence here tonight to accept our humble tribute to his remarkable achievements. To you, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, I now present this engraved Certificate emblematic of the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity Annual National Service Award for the year 1948, and with it this modest honorarium which we know you will be delighted to present to the charity or project nearest your heart --- Dr. Silver.





EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 1948 GRAND CONVENTION OF PHI EPSILON  
PI FRATERNITY, DECEMBER 29-30-31, 1948, CLEVELAND, OHIO:

Frater Harold Mendelow, Queens College, offered the following resolution:

Be It Hereby Resolved: that Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity give a sincere vote of thanks to the Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver for his inspiring address in acceptance of the 1948 National Service Award at the Stag Banquet.

Be It Further Resolved: that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Dr. Silver.

Frater Herbert R. Berger, University of South Carolina, seconded the resolution.

Upon vote, the resolution was unanimously approved.





226 Bradford Street •  
Pittsfield, Mass.  
January 10, 1949

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
Temple on the Heights  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:—

I am writing, in behalf of several friends and myself, to tell you how inspiring we found your radio speech of a week or so ago, on the evening you received the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity Award. Our general Zionistic inclinations, and our enthusiasm for the State of Israel, were certainly refired that evening.

In that connection, then, would it be possible for us to get a copy of your address. To be able to reread that message, from time to time, would be a continued source of personal pleasure.

Yours truly,

*Seymour C. Kolman*  
Seymour C. Kolman



YE 'SHALL REDEEM THE LAND

SPECIFICATIONS

AMOUNT

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NAME

TOTAL

GOLDEN BOOK 100 00 JAN 10 '49

DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
THE TEMPLE  
CLEVELAND 6 OHIO

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January 13  
19 49

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
E. 105th St. at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Mr. Mendel N. Fisher is presently on tour in behalf of the Jewish National Fund and is not expected back for about two weeks.

We are truly grateful to you for your kind contribution of \$100.00, the monetary accompaniment of the Annual National Service Award of the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity, which you have so richly merited. It affords us great pleasure to enclose herewith our receipt.

In compliance with your request we have duly informed Mr. Louis M. Fushan of your kind contribution for inscribing his fraternity in the Golden Book. The certificate has already been ordered and will shortly be sent to Mr. Fushan.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Isidore Epstein  
Assistant to Executive Director

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Enc. (1)

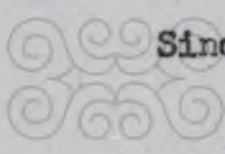
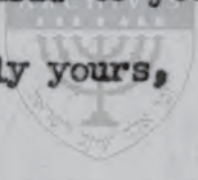


January 17, 1949

Mr. Seymour C. Kolman  
225 Bradford Street  
Pittsfield, Mass.

My dear Mr. Kolman:

Dr. Silver is out of the city, and I am, therefore, taking the liberty of acknowledging your letter of January 10th. I know that Dr. Silver will be gratified by your kind words, and if a copy of his address before the Phil Epsilon Pi Fraternity, I am sure that he will make one available to you.

 Sincerely yours,  


Secretary to Dr. Silver

er





## Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity

### GRAND COUNCIL

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICES

LEWIS TOWER  
PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

January 18, 1949

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of January 6th.

You will be pleased to learn that I have this day received  
The Golden Book Certificate from The Jewish National Fund  
of America bearing the following inscription:

"In Honor of the  
Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity  
In Recognition of Services to the  
Jewish Men in the Colleges and  
Universities of Our Country -  
(Signed) Morris Rothenberg  
President of The Jewish National Fund  
of America"

The Certificate further indicates that the above inscription  
was personally inscribed by you, and may I assure you that  
Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity is deeply appreciative of this  
evidence of your high regard, as well as fully cognizant of  
the great responsibility entailed by our continued efforts  
to measure up to the standard, which you have set for us.

I am forwarding the Certificate to our Executive Offices in  
Philadelphia where it will be framed and exhibited for posterity.  
I know it will always be a constant source of inspiration to  
our Fraternity.

With my most cordial good wishes and kindest personal regards.

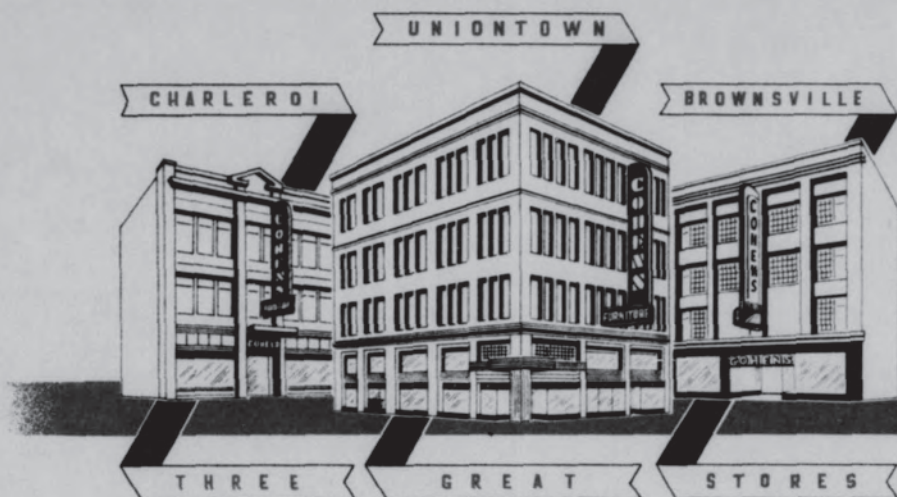
Sincerely yours,

Louis M. Fushan,  
Chairman

Committee on the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity  
1948 Annual National Service Award  
947-949 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

LMF:DB





# Cohen

## FURNITURE COMPANY

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April 18, 1949.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I wish to take this humble means of  
congratulating you upon receiving the Phi Epsilon  
Pi Fraternity 1948 National Service Award.

During 1930 I was Superior of the  
Phi Ep House at the University of Pittsburgh and  
during the past few years have been a member of the  
National Administrative Council of the Zionist  
Organization of America and past president of the  
Tri State Region.

All this has placed me in a position  
to know that Phi Epsilon Pi could not have made a  
better choice.

May you enjoy a long life of continued  
service to Jewry.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Lester Cohen



April 21, 1949

Mr. Lester Cohen  
Cohen Furniture Company  
Uniontown, Pennsylvania

My dear Mr. Cohen:

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter of April 18th, and to thank you for your very heartening words. It was indeed thoughtful of you to write to me.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er







